

May 31, 2013

Weekly Views

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has joined forces with Indiana Special Olympics as the Summer Games begin next week. Stephanie Stewart and Dave Breen of Special Olympics Indiana briefed staff about the upcoming Bocce Ball competition. Wabash PLUS and Fatherhood participants donated funds to make (thanks Wabash Maintenance) 12 new Bocce Ball courts for the games and Wabash crews have volunteered to staff the event for the very special athletes.

Miami Correctional Facility held its second Employee Appreciation Ride with about 30 bikes participating in the 100-mile trek across northern Indiana. The ride began at the facility and headed north on a scenic route

to Kerstings Harley Davidson Shop, and then to the Wooden Nickel Restaurant where riders ate and received door prizes.

Riders had so much fun another ride is being considered for the Fall. (see photo right)



The First United Methodist Church Ministries of Pendleton was the recipient of a food donation made possible by the Pendleton Correctional Facility/Grace College Vocational Horticulture Program. Instructor Phil Greenburg and the students enrolled in the program harvested 76 pounds of Boston Head Lettuce and 63 pounds of Romaine lettuce that was donated to the Methodist Church Food Pantry which is located at Grace College's Ingalls, IN campus. Since January 1, the vocational program has donated over 500 pounds of vegetables and herbs to this organization.

The Rockville Correctional Facility Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program has created a PLUS garden as part of the community service required of program participants. The garden has been planted and labeled and will be tended to by PLUS offenders. All of the resulting harvests will be donated to the House of Hope in Brazil, IN, an organization dedicated to assisting those in need with transitional housing, food and other needs. (see photo below)



Memorial Day is a time of remembrance for all veterans who served their country, and now in cemeteries throughout the country and on foreign soil. The American Legion Post 451 of Michigan City joined in this remembrance by placing a wreath at cemetery flagpole located on the grounds of the Indiana State Prison in order to pay tribute to any veterans which may be resting there.

Martin University has begun their third semester at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP). The enrollment has increased nearly 50% with 53 offenders participating in classes such as Journalism, Sociology, History, studying the History of Indiana Women's Prison and Music Appreciation. All the professors are volunteers and donate their time to instruct the classes three days a week. Offenders will be able to earn their Liberal Arts degree, or upon

discharge from the facility have earned credit hours from Martin University. The offenders and staff at IWP appreciate all the work, coordination and commitment from Dr. Kelsey Kauffman and James Patterson for spearheading the program and giving the offenders a wonderful opportunity for successful re-entry into their communities.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's 14 member Praise Team entertained over 80 offenders with song and praise. The two hour gospel concert was held in the chapel and included an original song written by one of the team members. Chaplain Alan McCraine played guitar and led a sing-a-long with a "Do Lord Medley" and the crowd favorite "Old Time Religion."

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility staff and guests gathered in the facility chapel to celebrate the graduation of residents who have completed U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) apprenticeship programs. Ten residents completed registered USDOL skills and training programs in Residential Commercial & Industrial Housekeeping, Office Management & Administrative Services, and Automotive Technician, earning them nationally recognized certifications in their fields. Combined, the graduates logged a total of 23,584 hours utilizing their education and practical skills while working at jobsites both on and off facility grounds. A small reception honoring the graduates followed the ceremony.



Teamwork between custody staff at the Westville Correctional Facility, the Therapeutic Community (TC) and ARAMARK provided the groundwork for a successful Therapeutic Community Family Reintegration seminar. Fourteen offenders and their families participated in the program. Family members could hear and experience firsthand from their offender about their participation in the TC. With the support of the TC staff present, the offender's discussed their fears and anxieties about their release and shared their goals of a healthy re-entry. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a special luncheon provided by ARAMARK.

The Indianapolis Parole District Office hosted their first "Bring Your Child to Work" day with breakfast, crafts and games. Twenty children attended and participated in the event along with parole staff. Everyone had fun and enjoyed spending time together.